

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 35 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence:

wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises an amino acid sequence at least [[80%]] 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to at least one of apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

28. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof ~~is capable of binding at least one of binds to apolipoprotein B containing LDL cholesterol and binds to apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL cholesterol (oxLDL cholesterol).~~

29. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) or said apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL) occur in humans occurring in human and other animal bodies have complementary carbohydrate structures.

30. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a functional fragment of said antibody.

31. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said functional fragment is selected from the group consisting of [[V_H]] Fv, Fab, Fab' and F(ab')₂.

32. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to claim 27, wherein ~~said antibody or functional fragment thereof includes an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence~~ is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, ~~or an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the~~

~~heavy chain (V_H) at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:3, or is at least 80% identical to both of said amino acid sequences of said variable regions of said light chain (V_L) and said heavy chain (V_H).~~

33. (Cancel)

34. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said functional fragment contains an amino acid fragment of the light chain (V_L) variable region or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (Cancel)

36. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof~~ is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain [(V_L)] (V_H) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof~~ is at least [[85%]] 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence~~ is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

39. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence ~~of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence~~ is at least [[90%]] 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

40. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a monoclonal antibody.

41. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is produced by a hybridoma.

42. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence, wherein the light chain (V_L) [[or]] and heavy chain variable region sequences comprise SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, respectively, and wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

43. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the [[the]] heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises a complementary-determining region (CDR), ~~selected from set forth as~~ [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, [[or]] and Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, [[or]] and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.], and wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

44.-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

49. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim [[27]] 43, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least [[95%]] 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least [[98%]] 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

52. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 43, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence~~ comprises Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2), amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3), amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~or Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.~~

53. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 43, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence ~~and the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence~~ comprises Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2), amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, and Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3), amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1, ~~and Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.~~

54. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3, and wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

55. (Currently Amended) A purified polypeptide, comprising a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence at least [[80%]] 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

56. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least [[85%]] 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

57. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least [[90%]] 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

58. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least [[95%]] 99% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of apolipoprotein B containing low density lipoproteins (LDL) and apolipoprotein B containing oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

59. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, [[or]] and Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, [[or]] and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.